

## REMARKS

This Response is being submitted in reply to the Office Action dated November 1, 2005. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. With this Response, claims 1, 7, 10 and 13 are amended and claim 5 is canceled. Additionally, the specification has been amended at pages 5 and 17. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to claims or the specification. Thus, entry and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

### I. Response To Specification Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of minor informalities. Accordingly, the Applicants have herein amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, with regard to the use of "t1" in the specification (as illustrated in Fig. 3), the Applicants submit that the specification recites "t1" at least at page 11, line 28 and page 12, line 7. Accordingly, the objections to the specification should be overcome without further comment.

### II. Response To Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7, 10 and 13 are objected to because of minor formalities. Additionally, claims 5 and 9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable in rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 7, 10 and 13 as suggested by the Examiner to correct the minor informalities. Therefore, the objections to claims 1, 7, 10 and 13 are now believed to be overcome. Additionally, The allowable subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 rendering the objections to claims 5 and 9 moot.

### III. Response To Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 10 and 12-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwama (U.S. Pat. No. 6,600,735, hereafter "Iwama") in view of Farris (U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,177, hereafter "Farris"). Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwama in view of Farris and further in view of Christie (U.S. Pat. No. 6,754,180, hereafter "Christie"). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwama in view of Farris and further in view of Ketcham (U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,366, hereafter "Ketcham"). The Applicants traverse the above rejections for the following reasons.

The Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. (see Office Action, page 11). Accordingly, claim 1 (as amended) should be deemed allowable without further comment. Likewise, dependent claims 2-5, 6-10 and 11-21 should also be deemed allowable based on their dependency from claim 1.

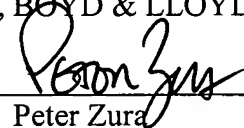
IV. Conclusions

In light of the above, the Applicants submit that claims 1-21 in the present application are in condition for allowance. Additionally, the Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-0359) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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